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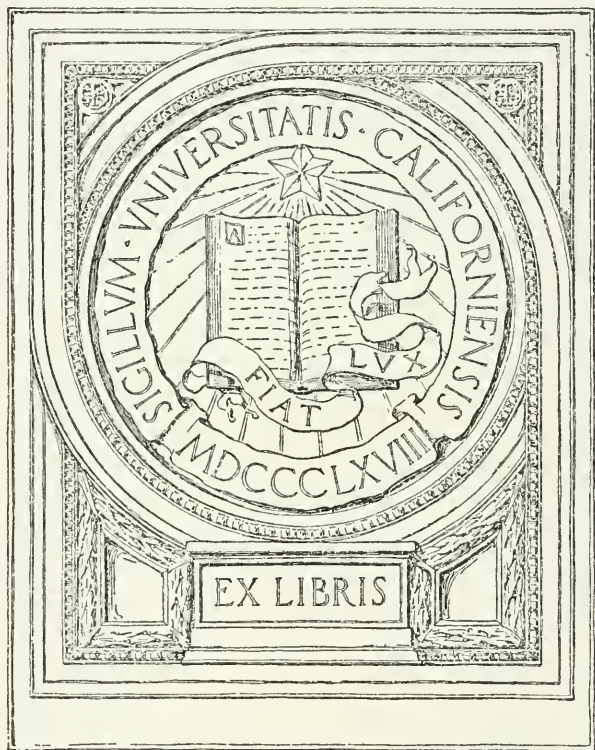
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ATHENÆUM EXCURSION.

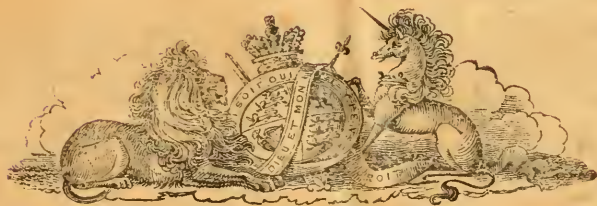
WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY, 1849.

GUIDE

TO

WENTWORTH HOUSE

AND PARK.



MANCHESTER:

PRINTED BY ALEXANDER IRELAND AND CO., DUCIE-PLACE, EXCHANGE.

1849.

ARRANGEMENTS.

The excursionists are required to be at the Victoria Railway Station, Hunt's Bank, at one quarter past Eight o'clock, as the train will start punctually at half-past Eight o'clock.

Conveyances will be provided *at the Masbro' Station* by the master of the Prince of Wales Hotel and the Railway Refreshment Rooms, at moderate rates, for those persons who require to ride the whole distance.

The Committee wish it to be distinctly understood, that the excursionists are at full liberty to form themselves into pic-nic parties. To facilitate this arrangement, a carriage will be provided at Darfield Station to convey the baskets, &c., of the members to Wentworth, *if properly labelled*.

Mr. Davidson, manager of the Athenæum Restaurant and Café, will be in attendance on the lawn in the "Milton Tent." A cold collation will be prepared for those who secure tickets by previous application at the Athenæum. A supply of cold viands, ices, confectionary, refreshing beverages—as coffee, lemonade, &c., will be prepared for general sale at moderate prices. A ladies' tent will also be provided, under female superintendence.

The members and their friends will pass into the house by the front entrance in parties of about twenty-five persons; five minutes will elapse between each party; and the time occupied in going through the house will be little more than half-an hour.

The route by Darfield is recommended, as being the nearest and the most beautiful approach to Wentworth House. The band will proceed *via* Darfield, occasionally enlivening the visitors as they pass through the woods and plantations. During the day the band will perform on the terrace, and immediately upon the performance of the national air at six o'clock p.m., the band and the visitors will require to quit the inner park, in order to arrive in sufficient time for the train.

The train will return in the evening from Masbro' Station at seven o'clock *punctually*, calling at Darfield, at one quarter past seven o'clock. The train can only remain two or three minutes at Darfield to receive the pedestrian excursionists.

ATHENÆUM EXCURSION.

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THE Railway Route selected for the excursion to Wentworth, passes through the most luxuriant and picturesque portion of Yorkshire, embracing Blackstone Edge—the York and Lancaster Alps; Calder Vale, Ellendale, and Dearnedale, as well as the towns of Rochdale, Todmorden, Dewsbury, and Wakefield.

That portion of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, known as the Manchester and Leeds, has been formed at an expense of three millions and a half, or £46,000 per mile; the length from Manchester to Normanton being fifty-one miles. Middleton station is six miles, and Blue Pits nine miles from Manchester. About a mile farther on is Rochdale, so called from the river Roche, its never failing source of wealth. Littleborough station is sixteen miles from the great manufacturing metropolis of England; and at the distance of another mile the deep cuttings give indication of the approach to the Summit Tunnel. The original contract for this great work was let at £35 per yard, and on the failure of the first contractors, it was re-let at £43 per yard, but it has ultimately cost the company £280,000, or £97 per lineal yard. This tunnel is nearly two miles in length, and at its eastern extremity the line is 540 feet above the level of the sea, or 350 feet above the town of Manchester. Immediately after leaving the Summit, two smaller tunnels, Deanroyd and Winterbutlee, are entered. Approaching the station at Todmorden, the extensive works of the late John Fielden, Esq., M.P., are seen on the right of the line, and on the brow of a majestic hill beyond, is the Waterloo Obelisk. The vale of Todmorden, or the valley of the *Fox mere*, on the left, is a bold and picturesque district, abounding in legendary lore. On the viaduct beyond the station, is a stone, defining the boundary of the counties of Lancaster and York. Passing Eastwood station (21 miles) the Charlestown curves are approached, of which due notice is given by the engine driver slackening his speed. The sum of £31,000 has been fruitlessly expended in an attempt to make a short tunnel at this point of the line, but in consequence of repeated landslips, the late eminent engineer, George Stevenson, was defeated. A large outlay has since been incurred, in altering the line to an open cutting. The beauties of the vale of Calder, now begin to disclose themselves, presenting some of the richest scenery in England; one view in particular, near Mytholmroyd station, is equal to the finest of the Highland glens. The line of railway being curved round the base of the lofty hills, which encircle Hebden Bridge, Mytholmroyd, Luddenden Foot, and Sowerby Bridge, a succession of beautiful scenery, varying in its character, is presented to the excursionist, for ten miles of the route. Sowerby Bridge, the birth-place of Archbishop Tillotson, is 28 miles from Manchester, and Elland 32 miles. The railway spans the river Calder, in several places between Elland and Mirfield. Three miles after leaving the latter station, the town of Dewsbury (41 miles) is seen on the left of the railway. Here

Edwin, king of Northumbria, had a royal mansion, A.D. 627. Wakefield is 48 miles from Manchester; the church, which is visible from the railway, is one of the finest in England, and was given by William, Earl Warren, to God, Saint Pancras, and the Monks of Lewes, in Sussex, it was consecrated A.D. 1329, by Wm. De Melton, Archbishop of York. Two miles from Wakefield, is the junction with the Midland railway, but the train will proceed onwards for three quarters of a mile, to Normanton station, in order to have the engine reversed. Oakenshaw station is three miles from Normanton, here the Wakefield and Goole railway passes under the Midland.

The Chevet Tunnel, beyond the Oakenshaw Station, is 600 yards in length, and was formed, in some degree, at the expense of Sir William Pilkington, near to whose house it passes. A short distance beyond, the low ground is crossed by a viaduct of 110 yards in length, consisting of several arches, and by a long and high embankment. Here on the right will be seen Wooley Park, the seat of Godfrey Wentworth, Esq., and Roystone Church. At the end of the long embankment, and near to Cudworth Bridge, the village of Monk Bretton appears on the hill to the right. Cudworth Bridge Station, in the valley of the Dearne, is two miles below the town of Barnsley. The woods skirting the valley are very beautiful, and of considerable extent. New Park, Spring Wood, on the left, is well known to fox hunters. The beautiful village of Darfield may be seen on the hill to the right; the village of Houghton on the left. On the slope of the hill below Darfield is Middlewood Hall, formerly the property of the Earl of Masborough. At Darfield Station most of the visitors will alight; the few who may prefer the longer walk, or to ride the entire distance, will pass on to Masbro'.

Preceded by an excellent band, the excursionists will proceed *en route* for Wentworth. About half a mile from the Darfield Station, the road crosses the Dearne and Dove Canal. Farther on is the Bull's Head, a pleasant roadside inn, which affords accommodation for large parties, and will be found convenient to those who desire to return sufficiently early to take tea. Here a road branches off, and, through a plantation to the left, leads to the North Park.

Passing through the massive iron gates, the beauties of the place begin to disclose themselves. The park gradually becomes more woody, the trees on either side for two miles, form a natural screen from the summer sun and the winter storm; the rabbits are in abundance, the wild rose and honeysuckle in luxuriance. By an easy ascent the visitor arrives at the Needle's Eye, an arabesque monument, surmounted with an earl's coronet—in the opening of which seats are provided for the pedestrian.

On the right may now be seen the monument of Hoobersan—a monument raised by the late Marquis of Rockingham in commemoration of the termination of the rebellion of 1745. This monument is ascended by 150 steps, and commands a most extensive view of the surrounding country; York Minster may be seen from Hoobersan on a clear day.

Leaving Rainham Park and crossing the highway, the visitor arrives at the inner or Wentworth Park. On the right, the noble mansion of the Wentworths suddenly bursts into view. Spread over the lawn in front of the house may be seen peculiar breeds of the bison, and

innumerable red deer, grazing in small flocks. The stock of deer is never less than nine hundred, but this number does not appear large, owing to the great extent of the parks which are thirteen miles in circumference.

ROUTE BY MASBRO'.

From the station at Masbro' to Wentworth there are two roads. The principal, chosen by those who secure a conveyance, passes through part of Rotherham; on the right, is the church, a spacious and venerable cruciform structure in the early style of English architecture, with a central tower and spire highly enriched; the exterior of the entire edifice, it will be seen, is elaborately and tastefully sculptured. The route for the pedestrian passes over the railway bridge to the left, thence to the right through Masbro' to the termination of the carriage road at Mr. Chambers' villa, by the side of which building a narrow pleasant lane is entered. Crossing a few fields of standing corn, the pedestrian passes Bassingthorpe farm, and proceeds onward until the path winds to the right, and gently descends the hill to the high road. Proceeding to the village of Greasboro' which is seen on the opposite side of the valley, the fine road leading to the park is entered. Here the beauties of Dearndale begin to display themselves. On the right will be seen the Mausoleum, erected by the late Earl Fitzwilliam in honour of his uncle, the Marquis of Rockingham. The height of this building is ninety feet, and it consists of three divisions. The first is a square Doric basement; the second storey is of the same form, but of the Ionic order; each of its four sides opening into an arch, and disclosing a beautiful sarcophagus standing in the centre; on the frieze, is this inscription—"This monument was erected by Wentworth, Earl Fitzwilliam, 1798, to the memory of Charles Marquis of Rockingham." This is surmounted by a cupola, supported by twelve columns of the same order. The basement storey is an apartment rising into a dome, supported by eight columns, encircling a white marble statue of the departed marquis in his robes, as large as life, by Nollekins. In the four recesses of this apartment are placed fine white marble busts of Edmund Burke, the Duke of Portland, Charles James Fox, Admiral Keppel, John Lee, and Lord George Cavendish.

Proceeding onwards by a picturesque road which passes through the woods, Morley Lodge with its noble archway is reached. Here the inner park is entered by a carriage road which rises to a slight elevation called Temple Hill. On arriving at a turn in the road by the woods, the princely mansion suddenly appears in view, at a distance of a quarter of a mile.

Charles William Wentworth, the present Earl Fitzwilliam, is descended from Sir William Fitzwilliam, ambassador at the court of William, Duke of Normandy, and a marshal of the army which conquered England in 1066. In 1620 the peerage of Ireland was conferred on the family, and in 1746 the title was advanced to an English viscounty and earldom. William, the third earl, married Lady Ann Wentworth, the eldest daughter of Thomas, Marquis of Rockingham, from whence the name and estates of Wentworth are derived. The Marquis of Rockingham, it will be remembered, was prime minister of England in 1765 and 1766, and retired from power with his secretary, the eloquent Edmund Burke, after refusing, for himself and his assistant, the usual perquisites and emoluments of office. It has been long expected that the present Earl Fitzwilliam would be raised in the peerage to the marquissate of Rockingham,

which he represents by the female line; but his course, as a politician, has been strictly independent of party or ministerial patronage. Although the sovereign authority has not entitled him to be called "most noble," he is by universal consent of queen, tenantry, and people, acknowledged as most virtuous, and most generous.

Wentworth House was erected by the Marquis of Rockingham about the year 1730; it is situated between Barnsley and Rotherham, at the distance of four miles from the latter town, in the midst of a beautiful country, and in the centre of a park that is one of the most exquisite spots in the kingdom. The mansion, for extent and magnificence, is not excelled: it consists of an irregular quadrangle, enclosing three courts, with two grand fronts; the principal one to the park, which extends in a line upwards of six hundred feet, forming a centre and two wings. Nothing in architecture can be finer than this façade. A noble rusticated stylobate, sixty feet long, projecting twenty feet, supports six magnificent Corinthian columns, on pedestals, with a balustrade enclosing the area. These columns support an angular pediment, within which are the arms of the Marquis of Rockingham; and, on the architrave, immediately above the columns, is that nobleman's motto, "*MEA GLORIA FIDES.*" On the pediment are placed three elegant statues, and one at each angle of the principal front, with vases and balustrade. The wings are in a similar style of architecture, and the effect of the entire edifice is at once pleasing and magnificent.

The interior is very superbly fitted up. The grand hall, or reception room, is 60 feet square and 40 feet high, with a gallery 10 feet wide carried round the whole; this is supported by 18 fluted Ionic columns, the shafts of sienna, with the bases and capitals of pure white marble. In niches between the columns are marble statues of Antinous, Flora, Venus de Medicis, &c.; over these are medallions containing reliefs from the designs of Athenian Stuart. The roof is supported by Corinthian pilasters connected by festoons, and the ceiling is executed in ornamental compartments. The floor is of white and yellow marble, corresponding in pattern to the ornamental ceiling. Some idea of the splendour of this hall may be gathered from the circumstance, that the floor and decorations have required the constant presence of workmen for the last three years, and they are still unfinished.

Adjoining the hall is the sculpture room, containing busts of the late earl, Lord Dundas, by Chantrey; Lady Milton; a figure of a heathen goddess, by Nollekins; statues of Venus, Minerva, Juno, and Diana, a centaur, Cupid and Psyche, and numerous beautiful specimens of sculpture. In the centre is placed a fine tripod, with the head of John the Baptist in relief. The chimney-piece, of white marble, with a frieze of mosaic work, is an object deserving attention.

The dining room is a handsome apartment, the walls and ceiling are of pale blue, with French white ornaments. It is adorned with the following pictures:—No. 37, Thomas, first Marquis of Rockingham, by Sir Godfrey Kneller; No. 40, William, second Earl of Strafford, and his sisters, by Vandyke; No. 38, Mrs. Wentworth; No. 39, Lady Wentworth, the mother of the first Earl of Strafford, painted in 1606; and No. 41, Sir William Wentworth, the father of the Earl of Strafford; No. 36, Lady Proby; No. 43, Charles Wentworth, second and last Marquis of Rockingham, by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

From the dining room three small libraries are entered; in the prin-

principal is the celebrated painting by Vandyke, of Wentworth Earl of Strafford and his secretary. Several engravings having been taken of this masterpiece of the great artist, it has become familiar to the patrons of the fine arts. Here also will be recognised some of the beauties of the court of the Second Charles, all painted by Sir Peter Lely, including, No. 48, Lady Anne Wentworth, afterwards Countess Fitzwilliam, and Lady Arabella Wentworth; No. 49, the Duchess of Portsmouth; and No. 50, the Duchess of Cleveland. In one of the smaller libraries there are some rare Indian ink prints of Charles James Fox, Grattan, and the grandfather of the first Earl of Strafford. In the ante-room are two paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds, taken from the great window at Oxford, viz., No. 25, a Shepherd Boy; No. 23, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Jervis, the glass stainer, as shepherds.

After passing through two smaller rooms, the visitor enters the picture gallery, which contains many of the *chefs d'œuvres* of the best masters. The principal which may be noted are three paintings by Salvator Rosa, viz., No. 60, a portrait of Masaniello; 63, Tribute Money; and 61, 57, Tancred and Armena, by Vandyke; 65, one by Teniers; 62, the Italian Poets; 72, one by Titian, and next to it a small painting by Raffaello; 73, Ruins of Rome, by Panini; 76, a Landscape, by Claude; 77, the Prophet Jeremiah, by King; 79, the Offering of the Wise Men, by Rubens; 80, a Bandit, by Hurlstone; 95, Henrietta Maria, Wife of Charles I., by Vandyke; 67, Joseph and Potiphar's Wife; 58, the Marchioness of Rockingham; 85, James Stanley, seventh Earl of Derby; 84, Margaret Clifford, Countess of Derby; 88, Lady Milton, the earl's first wife; 90, Cardinal Richelieu; 91, Dr. Harvey. Leaving the picture gallery from a door near the centre of the room, a neat breakfast parlour is crossed to a small room in which some valuable old china is displayed, as well as a model of Rotherham Church. Adjoining is the bedroom of George the Fourth, with the massive state bed in which his Majesty slept. A full-length portrait of the king, painted by Phillips, adorns one of the walls. The dressing room used by her Majesty when visiting Wentworth is next crossed; the walls of this room are hung with silk, which has the appearance of glazed paper; the design is neat and simple.

The Marquis of Rockingham's dressing and bed rooms are in the same suite; in the latter, there is a portrait of Lady Margery Wentworth, the daughter of the Earl of Strafford. The chapel is also adorned with rare and valuable paintings by the old masters, and some excellent copies of paintings by Rubens. Samson slaying the Philistines is a valuable picture. The St. Bartholomew, by Spagnoletto, and the Virgin, No. 125, and Christ, No. 126, by Carlo Dolci, are splendid paintings. From the chapel the visitor next proceeds to the museum gallery, in which there are cabinets of fossils. The collection has been carefully arranged by the present noble owner of this princely mansion, as evinced by the descriptive labels in his lordship's handwriting. Among other articles the specimens of fossil ferns and the oolites are exceedingly choice. The sample of asphalté that floats on the Dead Sea is deserving attention, and the superb antique cabinets in this apartment are perfect gems. The larger cabinet is very costly, the cornices and ornaments being of pure gold, and the workmanship correspondingly beautiful in finish, and elaborate in its details.

The gilt drawing room is a beautiful apartment, chaste and elegant

both in its proportions and decorations. The furniture is richly gilt, especially the couches of blue velvet and burnished gold. The chimney-piece is of spotless white marble. Three beautiful paintings adorn this apartment. 1st. The celebrated portrait of the late Earl Fitzwilliam, by Sir Thomas Lawrence, in the unfinished state in which it was left by the death of this distinguished painter; 2nd. Whistle Jacket, a favourite horse, painted by Stubbs, the size of life; and 3rd. a portrait of the present Earl Fitzwilliam when four years of age, painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

Adjoining the gilt drawing-room is the Vandyke room, which is unquestionably a most chaste and elegant apartment. The ceiling and walls of dead white, elaborately carved and neatly fringed with burnished gold, in rich contrast with the sombre portraits of the great and the beautiful, cannot fail to inspire the contemplative visitor with placid admiration. The chief paintings are:—No. 11. Henrietta Maria, queen of Charles I. and daughter of Mary de Medicis, by Vandyke. Archbishop Laud, by the same artist. No. 4, Charles II., by Sir Peter Lely. No. 7, William Stanley, second Earl of Stafford; No. 8, his wife, both by Sir Peter Lely. No. 9, Charles I., by Janssen. No. 16, Catherine of Braganza, queen of Charles II., by Sir Peter Lely. No. 5, The first Earl of Stafford. No. 13, Lord Baltimore. No. 22, The Earl of Cumberland.

In the ante-room are beautiful models of the church baptistria and leaning tower of Pisa, with several choice paintings by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Sir Peter Lely, and others. No. 18, The Infant Hercules, is by Sir Joshua Reynolds; and Nos. 23 and 25, by the same artist. No. 17, Prince Rupert, by Sir Peter Lely; and No. 24, William Duke of Cumberland, by Sir Joshua Reynolds. In this room are four choice paintings which, from their great value and merit, demand particular attention. They are—No. 19, *A Sleeping Cupid*, by Guido. No. 27, *Tribute Money*, by Paul Veronese. No. 31, *A Magdalen*, by Titian; and No. 34, *Christ crowned with thorns*, by Annibal Caracci. No. 29, A woman and parrot, is by the celebrated Flemish painter Jordaens. No. 32, George the Second, is by Shackleton. Several portraits of the Stanley family also adorn this apartment.

The lower room, under the great hall, is called the pillared hall; in it are the horns of an immense elk, from his lordship's estate in Ireland, a splendid vase, and several fine pieces of sculpture.

The ornamental pleasure grounds, at the back of the mansion, are of great extent; seats and statuary are placed in the most favoured spots for obtaining a view of the park and adjacent country. The green-houses, pinery, and collection of exotic plants, are varied and interesting. The aviary of foreign birds and the menagerie should be visited.

From out of the bosom of a majestic wood, two miles south of the house, a graceful Doric column rears its head; it was erected by the Marquis of Rockingham, to commemorate the acquittal of his friend, Admiral Keppel.

The Committee feel assured they do but express the sentiments of the Directors and Members in stating their lively sense of Earl Fitzwilliam's kindness in affording them this pleasing opportunity of visiting Wentworth.



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